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SOURCE Nan-fang Jih-pao.TROOPS REBUILD LU-PAO DAM

The Lu-pao Dam, in San-shui Hsien, Kwangtung, is now being reconstructed. Following the liberation, the people's government seriously considered the reconstruction of the dam, which had been allowed to fall into disrepair under the Japanese occupation and the KMT regime, and sent a party, including Huang Han-chen and Ch'en Ta-sheng, an engineer, to investigate the matter on 24 February 1950.

Ch'en estimated that complete reconstruction would involve laying 50,000 cubic meters of stones. But this project was considered so vast that it could not be completed before the spring floods. Consequently, it was decided that a partial reconstruction would have to suffice and that 10,000 cubic meters of stone, topped by 600 blocks of Portland cement (half-ton blocks, 6 decimeters thick) could be laid between 24 February and the end of April 1950, prior to the floods.

Ch'en now states that the stonework on the protective foundation is about half completed (by 10 April, 4,300 cubic meters had been laid) and that every effort will be made to finish the remaining half within 20 days. Most of the work is being done by troops of the Liberation Army, since the work at the Ch'ang-chou Dam, the Ch'ing-t'ang Dam, the Yung-feng Dam, and the Jung-sai Dam, all in the neighborhood of Lu-pao, has created an extreme shortage of civilian workers.

Stones for the project must be hauled 40 li from Chieh-p'ai, in Ch'ing-yuan, then loaded into "pig baskets" and sunk into place. Some 200 troops are laying the stones and are working day and night in an attempt to finish the project before the spring floods. Their daily wage is 9 catties of grain. When the project was started, the water level was 106.3 meters; it is now 108.4 meters. If the level continues to rise and reaches 114.3 meters, it will be necessary to open the floodgates to regulate a sudden rise in the Pei Chiang.

The Lu-pao Dam was originally built between 1920 and 1923. Constructed of reinforced concrete, it is 101 meters long, with seven sluices. The central, 23-meter sluice has no sluice gate, but leads onto a cement spillway. The three sluices on each side of this spillway are 10 meters long and are equipped with iron sluice gates.

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Ch'en states that the construction of the Lu-pao Dam provides protection to 3,270,000 mou of land (of which 2 million mou is planted in rice) and 2,300,000 people to the east of Lu-pao, in Canton, Fu-shan, Ch'en-ts'un, Shih-lung, Hsi-nan, Ta-liang, Jung-ch'i, and Kuei-chou.

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